



TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE 11 February 1970
TO: George Carver		
ROOM NO. 6-F-19	BUILDING Headquarters	
REMARKS:		
<p>Attached is the FE summary statement on the history of the stone jar of Laos.</p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-right: 100px;">  R. L. Bannerman </div>		
FROM: O-DDS		
ROOM NO. 7-D-26	BUILDING Headquarters	
FORM NO. 241 1 FEB 55		REPLACES FORM 36-8 WHICH MAY BE USED. (47)

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DD/S:RLB:llc (11 February 1970)

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- O - Addressee w/xcy of att to DD/S 70-0575
- U - DD/S Subject w/ccy of DD/S 70-0575 and att
- ~~X~~ - DD/S Chrono w/o att

DD/S 70-0575: Memo dtd 10 Feb 70 for DCI frm OGC Subj: Stone Jar from General Vang Pao

MORI/CDF Pages
4-5, 8-12.

70-0575

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OGC 70-0230

10 February 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Stone Jar from General Vang Pao

1. The following information is for your use in approaching Mr. S. Dillon Ripley about having the jar given by Major General Vang Pao put on exhibition in the Smithsonian Institution.
2. By law a gift of this sort, even if given to an individual, is deemed to be accepted on behalf of the United States. There are detailed regulations of the Secretary of State on disposition of such a gift. The responsible official is the Chief of Protocol.
3. Our inquiries indicate that if the Smithsonian is willing to accept the jar, it will be sufficient to write a letter to the Chief of Protocol, stating the agreed on disposition. We have checked with the Protocol Office on a hypothetical basis and probably can handle this aspect for you. A member of my staff made a blind telephone call to the Smithsonian and was told by Mr. George Metcalf, of the Old World Anthropology Section, that the Institution does not have a jar from the Plaine des Jars, and we understand very few of them have ever been taken out of Laos.

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4. I have talked to Winthrop G. Brown, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Department of State, who is enthusiastic about getting the jar to the Smithsonian and would be willing to help if needed. I have also talked to Peter Powers, General Counsel of the Smithsonian, who sees no technical problem but is the one who raised the point that some of the trustees of the Smithsonian are extremely wary of any connection whatsoever with this Agency. He does not believe this will be a major problem, but may condition the way the exhibition is set up.

5. If Mr. Ripley is agreeable, Bob Bannerman and I can probably work out the details.

6. Attached is information supplied by FE Division on what is known about the jars.

s/

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

Attachment

cc: ✓ DDS
C/FE

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Personnel //

16 January 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Gift Stone Jar

On 16 January I checked with Larry Houston as to the terms under which the gift of the Lao jar would be received from General Vang Pao. The jar should be given as a gift from the Laotian Government to the Government of the United States through Mr. Helms. FE will send proper instructions to Vientiane to so advise Vang Pao. I advised [redacted] and Jack Blake of the above and we can proceed with shipment of the jar to Washington. It will be admitted through U. S. customs as property of the United States Government. I suggested to both [redacted] and Jack Blake that they consider the use of [redacted] for the air transport of the jar if [redacted] has a trip planned in the Far Eastern area.

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[redacted]
R. L. Bannerman
Deputy Director
for Support

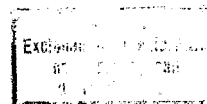
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- O - DD/S Subject w/background
- 1 - DD/S Chrono

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

CFE/SS

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

70-0093

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TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

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OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

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-- Attached is copy of memo on gift of stone jar to Director. We understand from Larry Houston that the Director will accept the gift, with possible arrangements made later for transfer to the Smithsonian. Jack Blake has called me on the transport and says he will contact you directly. Believe it might be advisable to have short meeting to ensure we all on same wave length.

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

EXTENSION

NO.

CFE/SS

DATE

14 Jan.

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TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

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There has been no response as yet from the Director to Vang Pao re the gift offer of a jar from the POJ. It is our understanding from Larry Houston that the Director requested DDS to handle the gift matter.

There are potential problems re the jar, as you are aware. We have a suggested cable response to Vientiane (attached), but wanted to discuss with you since you were at the Deputies meeting in which this was discussed.

Would appreciate a short meeting with myself, and Jack Blake so we can settle the jar problem. We are concerned over the long delay, since 19 Dec., of Director response to Vang Pao.

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1. PLEASE CONVEY TO VANG PAO MY DEEP APPRECIATION FOR HIS OFFER OF THE JAR FROM THE PLAIN OF JARS. I ACKNOWLEDGE THIS PROPOSED GIFT AND RESPOND TO IT IN THE SAME SPIRIT IN WHICH IT IS TENDERED, ^{THAT IT REPRESENTS} AS A SYMBOL OF RESPECT ~~AND APPRECIATION~~ FOR VANG PAO AND THE MEO PEOPLE WHO HAVE SO BRAVELY DEFENDED THEIR HOMELAND.

2. THE SELECTION OF THE GIFT AND THE VERY FACT THAT VANG PAO HAS BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN AND OFFER IT TO ME ON BEHALF OF  IS IN ITSELF EXTREMELY GRATIFYING. THE GIFT IS RECOGNIZED AS PART OF THE HISTORICAL HERITAGE OF LAOS, AND IS SO UNIQUE AND INVALUABLE THAT I FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE LEGALLY AND OTHERWISE TO ACCEPT ON BEHALF OF AND RETAIN THE GIFT WITHIN 

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3. IN ACCEPTING A GIFT OF THIS INTRINSIC AND HISTORIC VALUE, I AM REQUIRED TO ACCEPT ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, AND CONSULT THE SECRETARY OF STATE AS TO ULTIMATE DISPOSITION OF THIS GIFT. I WOULD PROPOSE TO RECOMMEND TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE THAT THE GIFT BE PLACED IN THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE¹⁵⁷ IN WASHINGTON, WHERE IT

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COULD BE APPRECIATED BY ALL VISITORS TO THIS MUSEUM. IN
SO DOING, THE FACT THAT SUCH A VALUABLE ARTIFACT FROM LAOS
EXISTS AT THE SMITHSONIAN WILL BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE
AND PROBABLY BECOME A MATTER OF PUBLICITY AS WELL. WHILE
I AM CONFIDENT I CAN ARRANGE TO KEEP FROM BEING 25X1
INVOLVED IN SUCH PUBLICITY, I WOULD NOT WANT YOU TO BE
EMBARRASSED IN ANY WAY IN YOUR OWN COUNTRY AS THE DONOR OF
THE GIFT. YOU MAY WISH TO DISCUSS IN ADVANCE WITH PREMIER
SOUVANNA PHOUMA YOUR PROPOSED GIFT, AND IF YOU AND HE
AGREE THAT THE GIFT IS A PROPER ONE FROM YOUR COUNTRY,
THAT IT BE OVERTLY TENDERED AS A GIFT FROM THE PEOPLE OF
LAOS, THROUGH SOUVANNA PHOUMA, TO THE PEOPLE OF THE
UNITED STATES. THIS WOULD IN NO WAY DIMINISH THE FACT THAT I
WOULD STILL CONSIDER THE GIFT AS A SYMBOL OF MUTUAL RESPECT
FROM YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE TO ME AND THIS AGENCY.

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OGC 70-0034

7 January 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Houston

SUBJECT: The Director's Gift Jar

1. The following is a record of my findings and research of the law and regulations relating to the Director's acceptance of a jar from the Plaine des Jars from a Laotian leader and his declared desire of having a jar repose in the Smithsonian. As you know, P.L. 89-673 (5 U.S.C. 7342) provides that a Government official may accept a gift of more than minimal value (\$50) only when to refuse same would embarrass the donor or adversely affect foreign relations with the United States. Such gifts, however, are deemed to be "accepted on behalf of United States and shall be deposited by the donee for use and disposal as the property of the United States" as provided by regulations. 5 U.S.C. 7342(c)2. The responsibility for providing regulations was vested in the President who in turn delegated the authority to the Secretary of State. 5 U.S.C. 7342(e) & E.O. 11320, 12 Dec 66. The Secretary's regulations at 3 F.A.M. 621.6c direct that a gift of more than the minimum value "may be accepted and shall be deposited with the Chief of Protocol for disposal in accordance with section 621.7." If, however, the donee's agency wishes to retain the gift for an official use, there is no requirement that the gift actually be deposited with the Chief of Protocol, and only his perfunctory approval is required. In practice, simply notifying Mrs. Daisy Johnson of his office is sufficient. Gifts not retained for official use are supposed to be forwarded to the Chief of Protocol who turns them over to the General Services Administration "for transfer, donation, or other disposal in accordance with such instructions as may be furnished by that officer. In the absence of such instructions, such property will be transferred or disposed of by the General Services Administration." 3 F.A.M. 621.7.

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2. I made a number of phone calls to the Smithsonian to see if it had a jar from the Plaine des Jars. When I found a gentleman who could answer the question, a Mr. George Metcalf, of the Old World Anthropology Section, I was informed that the Institution does not have such a jar. My request was framed along the line that I wanted to view and examine a jar and although he was rather short mannered, he stated he did not know of any museum in the United States which had one. I did not pursue the question of whether he would like to have one.

3. I next called Mrs. Johnson who is responsible for foreign gifts and decorations. I presented a hypothetical case, suggesting that a gift had been offered to a senior, Agency official but not yet accepted. The gift was of more than minimal value and one which would embarrass or offend the donor if not accepted. The Agency could not really find an official use for the gift and the senior official would very much like to see it given to the Smithsonian. Mrs. Johnson pointed out the provisions I have cited above at 3 F.A.M. 621.7 and expressed her belief that if the senior official were to send a letter to the Chief of Protocol requesting that the item be given to the Smithsonian, she was certain it would go there. Accordingly, the avenue for getting the jar from the Director to the Smithsonian exists and all that seems necessary is for us to do a little advance leg work to ensure of minimum red tape.



Office of General Counsel

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Distribution:

Orig. - AWARDS, GIFTS & COMMENDATIONS

1 - GMB Signer

1 - Chrono

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